



93 / JFW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65710

Kazuhiko NOBE, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/931,065

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 2593

Examiner: Mark Alan Sager

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: GAME MACHINE, GAME PROCESSING METHOD AND INFORMATION STORAGE
MEDIUM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications if this application was filed after June 30, 2003; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/931,065

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application (2002-294155) citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

Applicant submits the following explanation: The cited reference “Hanagumi Taisen Columns 2” is a game similar to Tetris. In this game, a player moves a falling piece to be placed adjoining to a piece of same color among a group of pieces stacked in the field in order to eliminate the adjoining pieces. By thus eliminating the pieces, the player tries to keep the pieces stacked in the field within a predetermined range.

In a match mode in this game, a gauge image which extends when the player eliminates the piece is displayed on a game screen. When the gauge image extends to a full level, the player is given an option whether or not to drop the pieces into the other player’s field.

If the player chooses to drop the pieces into the other player’s field, the pieces in the amount in accordance with attack rank at that point are dropped into the other player’s field, and the attack rank is initialized.

On the other hand, if the player chooses not to drop the pieces into the other player’s field, the attack rank is raised one level higher, and the gauge image is initialized. The player can raise the attack rank up to the forth stage. Also, in the game screen, an image showing the present attack rank is displayed.

However, “Hanagumi Taisen Columns 2” is not a music-oriented game.

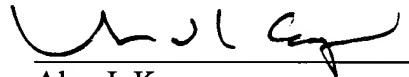
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/931,065

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Kasper

Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 9, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/931,065
Confirmation Number	2593
Filing Date	August 17, 2001
First Named Inventor	Kazuhiko NOBE
Art Unit	3714
Examiner Name	Mark Alan Sager
Attorney Docket Number	Q65710

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		DREAMCAST Sega Enterprises Ltd.	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.